(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is preparing a Rs.4,000 crores plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is also planning to extend some concessions to families whose annual income is Rs. 2.5 lakhs and whose wards are pursuing professional education; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) A proposal to provide interest subsidy on loans taken under the existing Model Education Loan Scheme circulated by Indian Banks' Association (IBA) is under consideration of the Government of India. The details of the scheme are yet to be finalised.

Mode of payment of Bills

523. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal wherein an individual may pay all his bills *e.g.* mobile, electricity, credit card etc. on a particular day of the month because as of now an individual pays bills of some kind or the other all through the month and thus there is no saving at all; and

(b) if so, whether it would be made mandatory for all service providers to get all bills on a particular date in a month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending cases for Income Tax 35AC exemptions

524. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of Income Tax 35AC exemptions are pending in the Department of Revenue for more than six months;

(b) if so, how many such cases are pending in the department as on December, 2007;

(c) the reasons for the delay in clearance of the cases;

(d) the steps being taken to clear the backlog in the department;

(e) whether it is also a fact that it takes more than six to ten months before the approval is accorded for the Income Tax 35AC exemptions in the department; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Applications for purposes of section 35AC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, pending for more than six months as on 31.12.2007, number 538 regarding new cases and 76 regarding extension cases.

(c) to (f) Deficiency letters are issued in cases where the required particulars and relevant documents are not furnished. Response to deficiency letters was awaited in 395 new cases and 26 extension cases out of the pending cases as on 31.12.2007 mentioned above. Delay in